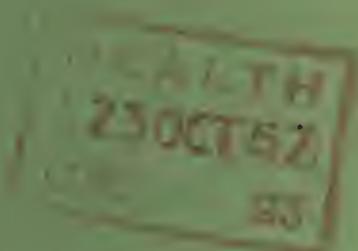


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Swanscombe Urban District Council



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year, 1956

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1956, upon the public health circumstances of the Urban District of Swanscombe.

Population. There was an increase of 110 in the Registrar General's estimate for the year, from 8,790 in 1955, to 8,900 for the present year.

Birth Rate. The number of births during the year was 141, an increase of 15 over the previous year, giving a rate for the district of 15.84. The rate for England and Wales is 15.7.

The still-birth figure is low, at 1 in number, providing a rate of 16.0, which compares favourably with that of the country as a whole.

General Death Rate. Swanscombe's death rate for 1956 was 8.1 per thousand of the population ; the number of deaths being 81. The rate for England and Wales is 11.7.

Natural increase of the Population. The total births in 1956 exceeded the total deaths by 60. The figures for 1955 and 1954 were 61 and 51 respectively, the present figures are therefore relatively good.

Infant Mortality. The rate for deaths of infants under one year is low at 21.2., the rate for the whole country being 23.8. The actual number of infants who died during the year was 3. This figure is good, and shows the improvement of recent years is being maintained.

Provision of Health Services in the Area. Following my usual custom, I have included a summary of the local health services available. These services are administered by the Kent County Council as the local health authority, and I have also included an up-to-date time-table in the form of an Appendix to the report.

Infectious Disease. The statements showing the incidence of notifiable disease follows the form of previous years. The figures call for no special comment. Scarlet fever, was more prevalent than in previous years, but no significance is attached to such an increase.

Deaths from tuberculosis continue to remain at their low level, the year's rate for Swanscombe being 1, which also compares favourably with that of England and Wales.

B.C.G. Vaccination. One of the most successful procedures in preventative medicine is to commence shortly—B.C.G. vaccination of 13 year old school children whose parents want them to have protection against T.B.

In the County of Kent there are more than 20,000 children of this age group. The risk of developing T.B. is greatest amongst teenagers, and so school children who have not acquired a natural resistance against T.B. should be protected by vaccination with B.C.G.

Most people, by the time they have reached adolescence, have developed a natural resistance to tuberculosis. This is due to small and repeated doses of infection, not sufficient to cause illness, but sufficient to produce some degree of immunity.

The earlier this naturally acquired resistance is established the better. If it is not established by the age of 15 to 17, in a young person, he or she is more vulnerable to the disease. B.C.G. Vaccination is intended to give teenagers, who have not already established a natural resistance, an artificially produced one.

By a simple skin-test we can determine whether the child has already developed a natural resistance to tuberculosis. Skin-testing is therefore a preliminary to vaccination. A positive skin-test indicates that resistance is established, and nothing further is done. The negative reactors to the test are vaccinated.

Polio Vaccinations. Commenced last year.

Atmospheric Pollution. Swanscombe, as a constituent member of the Thames-Side Advisory Committee for the abatement of atmospheric pollution, continued with its measurement of air pollutants in the district, and I have shown in the report the monthly variations, as shown by the contents of the standard deposit gauge.

One of the analysis is for sulphur derivatives which are respiratory irritants. The results show that in the winter months, when solid fuel consumption in domestic grates is at its maximum, sulphur gases in the air are nearly three times greater than in the summer months. This indicates that much of this air contaminant emanates from the domestic coal fire.

It is also in the winter months, when the coal consumption is highest, that the notification of, and deaths from, lung disease rise to three times the summer figure, part of which increase is, in all probability, associated with the increased air pollution.

The Clean Air Act received the Royal Assent at the beginning of July last year but it was not until the end of December that real administrative action showed itself at the centre though, locally, many authorities had in the meantime taken preparatory steps themselves. This has no doubt been an acute problem with the public for at least four years and the public has understandably felt rather disappointed and frustrated at the extra half year of marking time.

Taking the smoke control area memorandum first it is underlined, perhaps unnecessarily, that the areas will be established gradually "over a period of years in the larger towns," and it is also underlined, perhaps despondently, that the various kinds of smokeless fuels can be made available "over the next few years for a substantial start to be made." Exchequer grants to local authorities, who in their turn make rather larger grants to householders for adaptations, are subject to adherence to various principles. Two interesting points here are that, first, bedroom fires not in regular use need not be adapted or replaced, and, secondly, necessary incidental works may include the provision of gas ignition to open fireplaces. I take the view that gas ignition is desirable if it is at all reasonably practicable (it clearly would not be practicable in an all-electric house), and this for two main reasons: it is likely to be some years before an easily ignitable smokeless fuel, such as the newer cokes, will be in large supply; and in any event lighting fire, especially a smokeless-fuel fire, with paper and wood is messy, untidy, dirty, and certainly smoky.

The snags in connection with the establishment of smoke control areas, already obvious in the Act, are made even more obvious by the Memorandum. "Areas which are wholly or predominantly industrial should not be included."

The second memorandum, on the miscellaneous provisions of the Act, deals in general with enforcement. For prior approval cases, except in the simplest furnaces, it is suggested that an approach might be made to the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, or to a consultant, or to an *ad hoc* advisory panel. The more one studies the Act and the memoranda the more one realises how many technical points may arise even now with only part of the Act in force.

Early Portland Cement. The Medway-Thames district of Kent is the historic home of cement, the essential ingredients of which, chalk and clay, occur locally and in Cliffe marshes.

In 1824 in Northfleet, Joseph Aspden devised what he called Portland cement. He invented this name because the colour and properties of concrete made from the cement reminded him of Portland stone, a variety of dolomite. What he made was only a calcined and not a clinkered mixture. The kiln which he used was still to be seen in Northfleet until 1943, when it was destroyed by air warfare.

Modern Portland cement was first made in 1845 in Swanscombe, by burning the raw materials at a temperature sufficiently high to vitrify or clinker the mass. The raw materials are transported from quarries to a crusher house, where they are broken into sizes convenient for grinding.

The manufacture of Portland cement is carried on all over the world. Employees at different parts of the works are frequently exposed to heavy concentrations of dust. Both the nature of the dust and the extent of exposure have forced upon doctors the need to investigate the state of health of workers in the industry. Gardner and others (1939) made a survey of seventeen cement works employing 2,278 men. While their work showed the presence of a high concentration of dust in the atmosphere of the finishing mills and packing departments, the dust was found to contain but very little free silica.

In the department where the raw materials were crushed by a dry process, the dust was found to contain from 1 to 30 per cent of silica. In spite of this, X-rays of the chest showed nodular silicosis in only eight out of the 2,278 employees, and in six of these previous exposure to silica dust in other jobs was evidently responsible. The incidence of tuberculosis and other chronic affections of the lung was found to be less than in the general population and it was concluded that prolonged inhalation of cement dust does not predispose to tuberculosis. In general, Gardner considered that, compared with the dust hazards in the mining and cutting of siliceous rock and other silica industries, the problem of dust disease of the lungs in the cement dust is trivial.

In conclusion, I have again to record my appreciation of the help and encouragement afforded me by the Council during the year.

Your obedient Servant,

M. F. McDONNELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor W. AUSTEN (Chairman)
„ MRS. M. J. WRIGHT (Vice-Chairman)
„ E. W. BLACKWELL
„ T. BODLE
„ T. G. BURGESS
„ C. W. BUTCHER
„ J. CHILDS
„ P. CONNOLLY
„ MRS. A. O. DANIELS
„ W. L. DAVIDSON
„ F. H. J. GARLAND
„ G. C. HAMMOND
„ J. T. MITCHELL
„ V. F. JENKINS
„ W. O. KEARY
„ L. T. OWENS
„ A. F. SIGGERS
„ MRS. E. E. THURLOW

Clerk :

Mr. F. G. PETERS.

Solicitors :

Messrs. BAILY & GOFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

L. E. CROUCHER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
(who was also Surveyor)
Retired, 1st November, 1956

A. J. MUNFORD, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.
(who is also Surveyor)
Appointed 1st November, 1956

Assistant Public Health Inspector :

F. W. SHARPE (part time).

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,142
Population (Census 1951) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,294
Present estimated population .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,900
Estimated population, 1955 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,790
1954 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,770
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1955) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,594
Number of new houses erected year ended 31st December, 1956— Permanent .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	
Rateable value 31st December, 1956 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£121,903	
" " " " 1955 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£65,627	
" " " " 1954 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£63,483	
Sum represented by penny rate 1956 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£492	
" " " " 1955 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£240	
" " " " 1954 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£255	
Number of Births 1956 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£141
" " 1955 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	126
" " 1954 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130
					Swanscombe.	England and Wales.		
					Live.	Still.	Live.	
Birth rate per 1,000 population 1956 .....	.....	.....	15.84	0.22	15.7			
" " " " 1955 .....	.....	.....	14.3	0.22	15.0			
" " " " 1954 .....	.....	.....	14.5	0.22	15.2			
Number of illegitimate births 1956 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
" " " " 1955 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
" " " " 1954 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Number of deaths .....	.....	.....	1956 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	81
" " " " 1955 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80
" " " " 1954 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	79
					Swanscombe.	England and Wales.		
Death rate per 1,000 population 1956 .....	.....	.....	8.1	.....	11.7			
" " " " 1955 .....	.....	.....	9.1	.....	11.7			
" " " " 1954 .....	.....	.....	9.0	.....	11.3			
LIVE legitimate	118	69	70			Birth rate per 1,000 of the		
illegitimate	2	2	—			estimated resident population	15.84	
STILLBIRTHS—						Rate per 1,000 total (live and		
Legitimate	1	1	—			still) births	16.0	
Illegitimate	—	—	—					
DEATHS	81	35	46			Death rate per 1,000 of the		
						estimated resident population	8.1	
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—								
All infants per 1,000 live births .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
" " Measles (all ages) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT, 1956

	Causes of Death					Male	Female
All causes	37	44
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
Cancer, Stomach	2	1
Cancer, Lung, Bronchus	3	—
Cancer, Breast	—	1
Cancer, Uterus	—	3
Lymphatic Cancers	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	6
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	2	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	9
Coronary Disease, Angina	9	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	—
Other Heart Disease	3	10
Other Circulatory Disease	3	—
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—
Bronchitis	—	1
Other diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	6
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All Other Accidents	1	—
Suicide	1	—

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT IN LOCAL INDUSTRY.

The following figures relate to the number of employees in various types of Industry in the District :—

		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Cement Industry	...	996	16
Paper Industry	...	1,900	690
Wharf and Ship Yard	...	316	17
Mineral Water Works	...	45	27
Other Trades	...	88	18

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Services available under The National Health Service Act, 1948 and the National Assistance Act, 1948.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

The Kent County Council is responsible for providing these services and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer and his staff for the following information regarding facilities available and the day hours of attendance at the Clinics :—

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS AND POST NATAL CLINICS

Advice and ante-natal care is given and Post-natal examinations are carried out.
Scout's Hall, Church Road—2nd and 4th Monday, 2.0 p.m.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

These centres are available for giving advice as to the care of infants and children under the age of five years. Infant foods, National Dried Milk and Ministry of Food Vitamin Products are issued. A Medical Officer and a Health Visitor are in attendance at each centre.

SWANSCOMBE U.

Scouts Hall, Church Road, Swanscombe.	Thursday, 2 p.m.
Brotherhood Hall, Greenhithe.	Tuesday, 2 p.m.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Facilities for diphtheria immunisation and vaccination are available at the Council Offices, Northfleet, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10.0 to 11.0 a.m., and at all Child Welfare Centres.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

Domestic help is provided for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mental defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age. The service provided is limited to the performance of essential domestic help.

This is one of the services for which a charge may have to be made. When domestic help is provided, the head of the family concerned is asked to complete a form giving details of income and the charges to be met from that income and from this information an assessment of the charge is made. A preliminary estimate of the assessment can, if desired, be given by the district officer.

FAMILY HELP SERVICE.

This service is restricted to families of two or more children where application has been made to the Children's Committee for the children to be taken into care during the temporary absence of the mother and the service is limited to an initial period of not more than three months.

NIGHT ATTENDANT SERVICE.

Night attendant service is now available for old people but is limited to cases where the help required cannot be provided by voluntary agencies. The arrangements include evening service, preparation for sleep, provision of meals, attention to fires and night service. Application for this service should generally be made through the family doctor. Further information is obtainable from the Domestic Help Organiser at the District Office, Arthur Street, Gravesend.

HEALTH VISITORS.

These officers are appointed for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant and nursing mothers and as to the measure necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The Health Visitors also undertake duties in connection with the School Health Service.

SWANSCOMBE

Miss F. E. Arnold, S.R.N., S.C.N., M.V.Cert., K.C.C. Clinic, 5 Station Road, Northfleet.

HOME NURSING SERVICE.

The County Council provides a service free of charge for the attendance on persons whose doctors require them to be nursed in their own homes. The nurse's attendance is normally arranged by the doctor, but the name and address of the appropriate nurse for any particular district is obtainable from the District Office of the County Council at :—

Arthur Street, Gravesend.
(Tel. Gravesend 166).

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The County Council arranges for the free attendance of midwives upon patients who are to be confined at home. The name and address of the appropriate midwife for any particular district is usually known to the patient's doctor, but can be obtained from the District Office of the County Council at :—

Arthur Street, Gravesend.
(Tel. Gravesend 166).

COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Council is responsible for the provision of a comprehensive ambulance service throughout the County. Other than in cases of accident and emergency, no ambulance will be provided except on the recommendation of a doctor, midwife, or hospital, and in the case of sitting-case cars a special form has to be completed and signed by a doctor.

In cases of accident or emergency, if an ambulance is required, telephone "999" (or as indicated in the telephone directory or public telephone box), and ask the operator for "Ambulance."

PROVISION OF NURSING REQUISITES.

Arrangements have been made with the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade for the continuance of the Medical Loan Depots, on behalf of the County Council. The full range of nursing requisites are available at these depots and details of the addresses and the times the depots are open for distribution are available in the district offices. These arrangements are in addition to the loan cupboards kept by District Nurses. The depots deal with all applications for the loan of nursing requisites.

Northfleet : (St. John) 69 Dover Road. Monday to Friday. 7.30 p.m.—9 p.m.
(Mr. C. J. Sims. Telephone : Gravesend 4603).

MENTAL DEFICIENCY SERVICE.

Information regarding the service for mental defectives can be obtained from the District Officer.

An Occupation Centre for mental defectives living in the district, is established at :—

Anglo-Saxon House, Berkley Road, Gravesend.

Hours of opening :—Ordinary school terms, Mondays to Fridays, 10.0 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

A Home Teacher for mental defectives is also available in the area.

All enquiries regarding the Occupation Centre and Home Teaching should be addressed to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

The following clinics are available for children attending schools in Swanscombe :-

Minor Ailments. West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet. Medical Officer attends every Saturday morning, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.

Dental. West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet. Dental Surgeon attends every Monday and Tuesday, alternate Wednesdays and Saturdays. Except in emergencies, children are treated by appointment only.

Ophthalmic. Gravesend and North Kent Hospital

Speech Therapy 107 Rochester Road,
Denton, Gravesend.

Child Guidance. Woodside Road,
Bexley Heath.

} Attendance at these clinics is by appointment only.
} Application should be made to the Principal Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.

DISTRICT OFFICERS.

These officers are responsible for :—

- (a) Duties as Authorised Officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and Mental Deficiency Acts.
- (b) Acting as representatives of the County Health Department in dealing with inquiries made by the public and arranging for County Health Services to be made available in cases of difficulty.
- (c) Carrying out the duties of the County Council under the National Assistance Act in (i) arranging admissions for old, handicapped and homeless people to residential establishments other than in cases of sickness, and (ii) the care of movable property of patients who are admitted to hospital or to residential establishments provided by the County Council, where it appears that there is a danger of loss or damage to the property.
- (d) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

District Officer: Mr. G. T. Jeffery, Arthur Street, Gravesend. Telephone Gravesend 166.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The hospital and specialist services, including institutions for the chronic sick, mental homes, maternity homes, convalescent homes, chest clinics and outpatients departments are administered by the Regional Hospital Boards set up by the Minister of Health, the South-East Metropolitan Regional Board is responsible for all hospitals in Kent, but for day-to-day administration Hospital Management Committees have been set up to deal with groups of hospitals. Generally speaking admission to hospital is a matter for the doctor in charge of the patient and he will make arrangements direct with the hospital authorities, calling upon the County Ambulance Service for the removal of the patient to hospital where this is considered necessary.

NURSERY SCHOOL.

The Northfleet Nursery School provides accommodation for the daily care of children between the ages of 3 and 5 years. Priority is given to the children of mothers who must go to work in order to supplement insufficient wages ; widows, children living in unhealthy, cramped home conditions ; or where a doctor recommends admittance because of unsuitable home life. The staff is trained to deal with difficult children who need more psychological understanding than that provided at home.

Hours of attendance at the Nursery Schools are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with normal school holiday periods. Meals are provided for the sum of 2/6d. per week. In addition to the ordinary diet, Ministry of Health Cod Liver Oil Compound, Orange Juice and two-thirds of a pint of milk may be given.

At present 40 children are accommodated at the Nursery—most of them being from the Northfleet area—Application for admission should be made to the Superintendent (Mrs. Dowker), at the Northfleet Nursery School, London Road, Northfleet.

TREATMENT OF ANTHRAX, BOTULISM, SNAKE-BITE AND MUSHROOM POISONING.

List of the nearest centres which keep emergency supplies of sera for the treatment of anthrax, botulism, snake-bite and mushroom (*amanita phalloides*) poisoning. A 24-hour service is maintained at each centre.

Region 6 : N. E. Metropolitan

North Middlesex Hospital, N.17. Telephone : Tottenham 3071.
Day—Chief Pathologist.
Night—Resident Pathologist.

Region 7: S.E. Metropolitan

South East Sub-Depot, Weavering House,
Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Region 8 : S. W. Metropolitan

South London Blood Supply Depot, Telephone : Vigilant 8221.
Stanley Road, Sutton, Surrey.

The Dispensary, Royal South Hants and
Southampton Hospital.
(Snake Anti-Serum only).

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT AND RECUPERATIVE CARE.

Three forms of convalescent treatment are available. These are for :—

- (1) Patients who have been ill in hospital, discharged home within the previous seven days, but still require some form of treatment.
- (2) Patients who have been ill and treated at home or in hospital and still require some form of nursing or medical care as provided by a General Practitioner or Home Nurse.
- (3) Patients who have been hospital cases.

Patients in category (I) above, the doctor in charge should write to the Regional Board, Portland Place, London, asking for the "Convalescent Home" form.

In category (2) above, the doctor in charge should send a certificate to Dr. Elliott, County Hall, Maidstone, who will arrange recuperative care at Homes situated in Herne Bay, Whitstable, etc.

Patients in category (3) will have convalescence arranged by the Lady Almoner of the hospital.

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION.

Medway Towns Branch of the Family Planning Association announced that their Clinic was opened on Thursday, September 23rd, at All Saint's Hospital, Chatham (Ante-Natal Clinic). Thursday evenings—7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

HOME SAFETY.

In recent months, the gravity of the position in regard to accidents in the home has received considerable attention.

Many eminent people have underlined the seriousness of the position in regard to the taking up of bed-space in hospitals and the immense financial loss to the Country caused by these accidents. This is no small problem when it is remembered that since 1949 some 31,674 fatal accidents have occurred.

It is generally agreed that while suitable legislation can do something to prevent home accidents, in the last resort it rests with the public to take the necessary precautions, and therefore education is of primary importance.

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Application for the admission of infectious diseases to hospital should be made to the Medical Superintendent of the River Hospital. In the case of Small Pox admission to hospital is arranged by the Consultants who diagnose the disease or by the Medical Officer of Health on his behalf. Telephone : Dartford 3231.

Special arrangements have been made for cases occurring amongst the Cadets in the Worcester Training Ship moored off Greenhithe. These are removed by launch to the Port of London Authority Hospital, Gravesend, Telephone Gravesend 257-

Scarlet Fever :

Cases notified	...	...	40
Cases removed to hospital	...	0	
% of cases removed	...	0	

Measles :

Cases notified	...	16
Cases removed to hospital	0	
% of cases removed	0	

Whooping Cough :

Cases notified	...	...	17
Cases removed to hospital	...	0	
% of cases removed	...	0	

Pneumonia :

Cases notified	...	7
Cases removed to hospital	3	
% of cases removed	...	42.5%

Erysipelas :

Cases notified	...	...	0
Cases removed to Hospital	...	0	
% of cases removed	...	0	

Diphtheria :

Cases notified	...	0
Cases removed to hospital	0	
% of cases removed	0	

Dysentery :

Cases notified	...	...	11
Cases removed to Hospital	...	0	
% of cases removed	...	0	

Poliomyelitis :

Cases notified	...	0
Cases removed to hospital	0	
% of cases removed	0	

Paratyphoid Fever :

Cases notified	...	...	0
Cases removed to hospital	0		
% of cases removed	0		

Enteric or Typhoid Fever :

Cases notified	...	1
Cases removed to hospital	1	
% of cases removed	100%	

Puerperal Pyrexia :

Cases notified	...	...	0
Cases removed to hospital	0		
% of cases removed	0		

Acute Encephalitis :

Cases notified	...	0
Cases removed to hospital	0	
% of cases removed	0	

Food Poisoning

Cases notified	...	...	8
Cases removed to hospital	0		
% of cases removed	0		

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX, 1956.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Urban District of Swanscombe, who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1956 :—

(A) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Year of Birth	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Total
Primary Inoculations	10	83	15	3	5	14	14	3	4	8	1	1	—	—	—	161
Reinforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	6	15	28	4	15	85	11	1	2	1	—	204

(B) Vaccination.

Year of Birth	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Before 1942	Total
Primary Vaccination	58	27	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	89
Re-Vaccination	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1956.

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since January, 1942).

Year of Birth	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1952-1956	2	18	20	13	75	151	97	107	108	121	93	107	115	92	10	1129
1951 or earlier	60	51	17	60	53	17	10	49	20	1	—	—	—	—	—	392

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified	Cases		Vision Unim- paired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths				
	Treated									
	At Home	In Hospital								
—	—	—	—	—	—	—				

Venereal Diseases.

County Hospital, Dartford.	Mondays	4-6 p.m. (Males) 11-1 p.m. (Females)
22, Cobham Street, Gravesend.	Tuesdays	9.0-12 noon (Males) 12 noon-2 p.m. Females)
	Saturdays	9 a.m. (Males) 9.30 a.m. (Females)

The undermentioned figures show the number of cases suffering from V.D. attending Dartford and Gravesend V.D. Clinics from Swanscombe Urban District :—

	New Patients.	Total.
Syphilis	—	—
Gonorrhoea	—	I
Non-Venereal	—	4
Total No. of attendances of Swanscombe patients	—	41

There were no defaulters from the Swanscombe area before completion of treatment during 1956.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Registration District :

Darent Valley
Comprising Swanscombe U.D.C.
and Dartford R.D.

Registrar :

Mrs. J. Maltby.

Head Office :

The Register Office,
West Hill,
Dartford. Telephone No. 3881.

Monday	9 a.m.—12 noon	
Tuesday	9 a.m.—12 noon	
Wednesday	9 a.m.—12 noon	2 p.m.—4.30 p.m.
Thursday	2 p.m.—5 p.m.	
Friday	2 p.m.—5 p.m.	

Registration Station :

Primitive Methodist Schoolroom,
Church Road.
Swanscombe.

Tuesday 11 a.m.—12 noon

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Reports received on samples taken from various sources on the Metropolitan Water Board Supply to the area.

Date of Samples 1956.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on agar at			Remarks.
	Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C Aerobically per ML.	Coliform Bacilli McConkey, 2 days 37°C		
3.1.56	—	None	Highly Satisfactory	
15.3.56	—	None	"	"
10.4.56	—	None	"	"
9.5.56	—	None	"	"
29.5.56	—	None	"	"
4.9.56	—	None	"	"

Reports received on samples taken from various wells and mains supplying factories situated in the District.

Date of Samples.	Plate Count Yeastrel Agar 2 days, 37°C aerobically per ML.	Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli McConkey 2 days 37°C per 100 ML.	Probable No. of Faecal Coli per 10 oML.	Remarks
31.1.56	—	None	None	Satisfactory
20.2.56	—	None	None	"
23.7.56	—	None	None	"
16.10.56	—	20	3	Unsatisfactory
13.11.56	—	25	2	"
19.12.56	—	None	None	Satisfactory

PRIVATE SWIMMING POOL THAMES NAUTICAL TRAINING COLLEGE, GREENHITHE.

Date of Sample.	Probable Number per 100 ml of Coliform Baccilli.		Faecal Coli.	
16.10.56	Shallow end	None	None	Highly Satisfactory
16.10.56	Deep end	None	None	" "

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL.

Date of Sample.	Probable Number per 100 ml of Coliform Baccilli		Faecal Coli.	
13.6.56	Shallow end	None	None	Highly Satisfactory
13.6.56	Deep end	None	None	" "
23.7.56	Shallow end	None	None	" "
23.7.56	Deep end	None	None	" "
15.8.56	Shallow end	None	None	" "
15.8.56	Deep end	None	None	" "
4.9.56	Shallow end	None	None	" "
4.9.56	Deep end	None	None	" "

Attendances 1955 :	Adults 4,355.	Spectators	1,622
	Children paid for admission		17,737
	Children from schools		4,557
	Beaver Swimming Club		1,523
	Season Ticket Holders		942

Attendances 1956 :	Adults 1,762.	Spectators	588
	Children paid for admission		9,597
	Children from schools		4,505
	Beaver Swimming Club		898
	Season Ticket holders		566

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection.

During the period of report approximately 8,964 cubic yards were collected and disposed of.

Although certain difficulties were experienced this service was reasonably maintained.

One S.D. Freighter (Registered 1950) of 6 cubic yards capacity is used for this work.

Disposal.

Controlled tipping is carried out in a shallow disused gravel pit.

DRAINAGE SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The proposed improvement of Sewer and Sewage disposal which is estimated to cost £45,000, has been postponed on the suggestion of Ministry of Housing and Local Government, due to restriction on Capital expenditure.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Analysis of matter collected in Atmospheric Deposit Gauge situated on roof of Swimming Pool, London Road, Greenhithe.

Date	Rainfall Ins.	Total Water Insoluble Matter.	Total Water Soluble Matter.	Tons per square Mile.
Jan. 1956	2.61	0.5680 G	0.9360 G	50.16
Feb. 1956	0.087	0.4792 G	0.3980 G	29.25
Mar. 1956	0.73	0.8464 G	0.7180 G	52.17
April 1956	1.13	0.6888 G	0.6010 G	43.01
May 1956	0.28	0.7564 G	0.4650 G	40.73
June 1956	1.43	0.5478 G	0.4900 G	34.61
July 1956	3.79	0.7406 G	0.6840 G	47.51
Aug. 1956	3.03	0.5378 G	0.6280 G	38.88
Sept. 1956	1.39	0.7468 G	0.5620 G	43.65
Oct. 1956	1.23	0.7162 G	0.6080 G	44.16
Nov. 1956	0.53	0.8666 G	0.7580 G	54.18
Dec. 1956	2.00	0.3436 G	0.5940 G	31.27

ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR BY LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD.

Date.	Area Exposed. Sq. CM	Weight of BaSo ₂			Wt of So ₂ Collected MG/100 Sq. CM/day	MG of So ₃ /day collected any 100sq. cm. of Batch A PbO ₂ (Louvre Cover)
		In Sample MG	In Control MG	Due to Exposure MG		
		(1)	(2)	(3)		
Jan. 1956	100	198.0	4.4	193.6	2.21	1.99
Feb. ,,	100	232.0	3.4	228.6	2.70	2.43
Mar. ,,	95	182.8	4.0	178.8	1.96	1.76
April ,,	100	126.8	5.0	121.8	1.49	1.34
May ,,	95	122.4	4.0	118.4	1.38	1.24
June ,,	100	104.0	2.6	101.4	1.12	1.01
July ,,	100	78.8	2.0	76.8	0.88	0.79
Aug. ,,	100	82.0	1.0	81.0	0.84	0.76
Sept. ,,	95	72.0	1.2	70.8	0.91	0.82
Oct. ,,	100	174.0	2.2	171.8	1.90	1.71
Nov. ,,	94.5	270.8	2.4	268.4	3.04	2.74
Dec. ,,	95	112.8	1.5	111.3	1.39	1.25

MILK SUPPLY.

Sterilized Milk.

Forty-four samples of milk were submitted for the prescribed test, all samples were satisfactory.

Pasteurised Milk.

Twenty samples taken from the distributors in the district, satisfied the prescribed test.

Samples of School milk as supplied by W. E. Southwood, Vale Road Dairy, Northfleet, were taken monthly by the Public Health Department, Northfleet Urban District Council, all proved satisfactory.

There are no dairies or bottling establishments situated in this district.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

There are thirty-five establishments in the district, thirty-four are registered for retail only, and one is registered to make Ice Cream, with prescribed cold mix. Two hundred and fifty-one samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, with the result 215 were grade I, 35 of grade II, 1 of grade III. No Pathogenic organisms were cultivated.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-1950.

Details of Samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the **Swanscombe** Urban District during the year ended, 31st December, 1956.

Article.						No.
Blackcurrant Flavour Cordial	...	...	...	...	...	I
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	...	I
Creamed Rice	...	...	...	...	...	I
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	...	I
Double Cream	...	...	...	...	...	I
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	...	I
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	I
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	2
Instant Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lemon Barley	...	...	...	...	...	I
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	I2
Neuro Phosphates	...	...	...	...	...	I
Ostrax Tonic	...	...	...	...	...	I
Pearl Tapioca	...	...	...	...	...	I
Pickled Walnuts	...	...	...	...	...	I
Rice Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	...	I
Syr. Ferri. Phos. Co.	...	...	...	...	...	I
Tinc. Chloro. et Morph. B.P.C.	...	...	...	...	...	I
Tomato Ketchup	...	...	...	...	...	I
Ung. Acid Salicyl B.P.	...	...	...	...	...	I
Ung. Iod. Deng. B.P.C.	...	...	...	...	...	I
Whisky	...	...	...	...	...	I
Whole Carrots	...	...	...	...	...	I
					Total	35

SUMMARY

Milks	...	I2
Drugs	...	6
Spirits	...	2
Other Samples	...	I5
		35

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Sample of Blackcurrant Flavour Cordial.

Analysis. The liquid is yellow, sweet and tastes of citric acid but not of blackcurrant.
Presumably the flavour and colour have been accidentally left out.

Action taken. A sample taken from a further consignment was satisfactory.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

- 19lbs. Various Vegetables in tins.
- 2 lbs. Various Fruits in tins.
- 42 lbs. of Fish.
- 18 lbs. Corned Beef.
- 120 lbs. Pork.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

In accordance with the Ministry of Food Circular MF5/54, one licence only was issued for the licencing of a Slaughterhouse situated in the district. The Licence is dated 21st February, 1957, and expires on the 31st January, 1958.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	379
No. inspected ...	—	—	—	—	379
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcass con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	.052%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	I
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	.023%

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	211
Number of inspections made for that purpose	211
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Amendment Regulations, 1925 and 1932	126
Number of inspections made for that purpose	126
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	77

2. Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the I.A. or its Officers	50
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	40
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	20
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	37
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	—
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Swanscombe Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1956 of work carried out under the Public Health, Housing, Factories and Food and Drugs Acts, etc.

Investigation was carried out of all cases of infectious diseases, disinfection of beddings, clothing and premises, inspection under the Factory and Workshops Act, inspection of foods, sampling of milk and water, etc., investigation of complaints, interviewing builders and owners of property concerning sanitary work. Other duties are clerical work in connection with the above and administration and supervision of the Cleansing Department.

Number of complaints received during the year	.....	.....	.....	.....	113
Total number of visits made	.....	.....	.....	.....	1342
Preliminary Notices served	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
,, ,, complied with	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
Statutory Notices served	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
,, ,, complied with	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
Verbal notice only was given on 19 occasions.					

Visits made by Public Health Inspectors during the year 1956 :—

First visits, Public Health Act 1936 and Housing Act 1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	211
Re-visits, Public Health Act 1936	.....	.....	.....	.....	138
Infectious disease enquiries	.....	.....	.....	.....	92
Inspections of verminous premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Visits in connection with verminous persons	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Water supply and subsequent visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Drainage inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	53
Drains tested	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Visits regarding cesspools	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Housing Act visits and revisits	.....	.....	.....	.....	68
Moveable dwelling inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Rats and mice primary visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Rats and mice subsequent visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	72
Factories visited	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
Bakehouse—basement	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Bakehouses—ground level	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Food premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	251
Dairies and milkshops	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Milk sampling	.....	.....	.....	.....	64
Water sampling	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Ice Cream sampling	.....	.....	.....	.....	251
Sewage sampling	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Stables	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Miscellaneous, accumulations animals	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Swimming Pool (water samples)	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
					1342

INFECTION AND DISINFECTION.

During the year 92 cases of infectious diseases were investigated, viz :--

Scarlet fever	.....	40
Tuberculosis	.....	5
Measles	.....	16
Whooping Cough	.....	16
Enteric or Typhoid	...	1
Dysentery	...	14
		—
Total	.....	92

Included in this was the supervision of the disinfection of same.

The following is a summary of nuisances and defects remedied during the year :—

Accumulations of offensive refuse removed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Animals in an unfit state	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Ashbins provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	66
Ceilings repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Cesspools repaired or abolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Chimney flues repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Doors repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Door frames repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Drainage Systems :—							
Drains repaired or reconstructed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Drains Cleansed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46
Gulley traps repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Gulley trap gratings provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Soil and vent pipes provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Inspection chambers repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Firegrates repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Fireplaces, brickwork and plasterwork repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Floors repaired or relaid	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Floors, sub-floor ventilation provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Rainwater downspouts repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Roofs repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Sinks repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Staircase repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Stoves repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Rats, premises treated	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	72
Vermiinous rooms	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Walls, brickwork repaired or repointed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Wall, damp proof course inserted	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Walls, internal plasterwork repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
Washing boilers, coppers repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Water closets :—							
External structure repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Internal structure repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Flush pipes repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Basins and traps renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Seats repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Water supply, supply pipes, etc., repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Windows, woodwork of frames, sashes or sills repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Yard Surfaces repaired or renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Approximate number of separate premises in the area	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2820
Number of premises containing each type of sanitary convenience in district (approximate) :—							2820
W.C's into drainage system	.....	2753	W.C's into cesspools	.....	.....	.....	40
Earth closets or privy middens	.....	1	Pail Closets	.....	.....	.....	2

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspection made by Public Health Inspector

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with Mechanical power	43	1	—
Factories without Mechanical power	29	—	—
Other premises under the Act	31	8	—
Totals	103	9	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	9	—	—

	No. in district	No. of visits in 1956	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	3	3	—	—
Dairies	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses—				
Registered	—)	—	—
Licensed	1	)	1	1
Other food-preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	64	328	6	6
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
Houses-let-in-lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	12	44	1	1
Workshops	17	15	—	—
Workplaces (other than out-workers' homes)	19	45	2	2

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	—	—
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	—	—
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	—	—
(b) (i)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—	—
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	—	—
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	—	—
(d) (i)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—	—

(1) Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority:—

1919 Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61
1923 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27
1924 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	190
Non-subsidy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	96
1936 Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27
Prewar houses being sold under mortgage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62
Temporary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100
New Houses, Permanent Type	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	130
„ „ „ Prefabricated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62
Swanscombe Street Site conversions, Bungalows	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38
Requisitioned Units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
The Flats	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	128
							Total	932

(2) Number of new houses built during 1956,—

(a) By Local Authority Permanent type	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
(b) By other bodies or persons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
							Total	18

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
A. J. MUNFORD,
Public Health Inspector.

Reporter, Ltd.,
Gravesend.

